

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-23 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 24-57 are pending.

Claims 32-39 have been amended to obviate the Section 112, first paragraph, rejections of claims 24-57. Support for the amendments with regard to primers may be found, for example, on page 24, lines 1-3. Support for the amendment with regard to probes may be found, for example, on page 24, lines 18-26 of the specification. No new matter has been added. The claims have been amended to advance prosecution.

Entry of the above amendments are believed to obviate the only remaining rejections and accordingly will place the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments is therefore requested. The Examiner has indicated in the Section 112, first paragraph, rejections of claims 24-57 that the rejections have been maintained as the "applicants did not address the issue of using long probes for specific hybridization."

See, page 2 of the Office Action dated April 1, 2004. The applicants presume the Examiner is making reference to the comment on lines 10-12 on page 6 of the Office Action dated April 25, 2003 (Paper No. 5). The above is believed to be responsive to this remaining issue and is submitted to obviate the same. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112, first paragraph, rejections of claims 24-57 are requested. At a minimum, the Examiner is requested to enter the amendments for purposes of appeal.

Claims 32-37 and 54-57 have been amended for what is believed to be minor grammatical corrections. Entry of the same is requested.

MAERTENS et al.  
Appl. No. 09/873,224  
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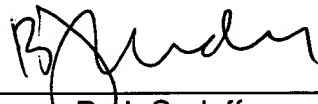
The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required in this regard.

The Examiner is again requested to acknowledge receipt by the Patent Office of the priority documents in the grand-parent application Serial No. 08/362,455, from the International Bureau with regard to PCT/EP94/01323, as evidenced by the Notification of Acceptance dated February 10, 1995, which was attached to the Amendment of August 25, 2003. The Examiner is further requested to acknowledge the applicants' claim to domestic priority.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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